

**CITY OF STAMFORD  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

**REGULATIONS<sup>1</sup> FOR MOORING AND ANCHORING VESSELS  
IN THE STAMFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT AREA (SHMA)<sup>2</sup>**

1. Mooring Committee:

Pursuant to Sec. 6-63 of the Stamford Code, a Mooring Committee shall be established consisting of, at the very least, the Chairman of the Harbor Management Commission, the Stamford Harbor Master, and a third member who shall be a member of the Harbor Management Commission.

2. Mooring Permits Required:

(a) In order to provide for adequate access for vessels, for the safety of persons and property, for the protection of coastal resources, and for the optimum use of the Stamford Harbor Management Area (SHMA) , the Harbor Master must approve the location and use of all moorings<sup>3</sup> within the SHMA, including: (1) "individual-private" moorings; and (2) "commercial" moorings as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and requiring authorizations from those agencies. A permit issued by the Harbor Master and/or designated entity, shall be required for the use of each approved mooring location.

(b) No provision contained in these Regulations shall limit the authority of the Harbor Master to station and remove vessels as provided in applicable sections of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(c) Mooring permits shall be issued by the Harbor Master and/or designated entity, only to those applicants: 1) owning, leasing or chartering a vessel properly registered in accordance with

---

<sup>1</sup> These regulations are established pursuant to Sections 6.63 and 6-64 of the Stamford Code to implement mooring and anchoring-related provisions of the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan* adopted by the Stamford Board of Representatives and approved in accordance with Sec. 22a-113m of the Connecticut General Statutes.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of these Regulations, the Stamford Harbor Management Area is the jurisdiction of the Harbor Management Commission as defined in Sec. 6-59 of the Stamford Code and the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan*. The SHMA includes Stamford Harbor and all of the other navigable waters and intertidal areas of the City of Stamford waterward of the mean high water line within Stamford's territorial limits, bounded on the south by a line defined in the Plan.

<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of these Regulations, a "mooring" shall mean the hardware to which a vessel or other floating object, including but not limited to a floating dock, can be made fast by means of mooring tackle so designed that, when attachment is terminated, some portion of the tackle remains below the surface of the water and is not under the control of the vessel or other floating object.

applicable laws and regulations or; 2) owning or representing a duly established water dependent business and/or recreational facility, such as, but not limited to, a private boating club.

3. Mooring Records:

(a) The Harbor Master, with assistance from the Mooring Committee and/or designated entity, shall keep a detailed record of each approved mooring location and vessel permitted to use that location. Such record shall include pertinent information as may be determined by the Harbor Management Commission concerning the mooring permit holder.

(b) All mooring permit holders shall be responsible for promptly notifying the Harbor Master and/or designated entity, of any changes to the information provided on their mooring permit applications. All persons on any mooring waiting list that may be maintained by the Harbor Management Commission and the Harbor Master shall also be responsible for notifying the Harbor Master and/or designated entity of any changes to the information provided on their waiting list applications.

4. Mooring Plans:

The Harbor Management Commission in consultation with the Harbor Master may prepare a comprehensive mooring plan or plans to guide the allocation of all moorings in the SHMA and to identify each assigned mooring location. Such plan or plans may be adjusted as necessary by the Commission to provide for the most safe and efficient use of mooring locations. The plan or plans may designate specific mooring "zones" within the SHMA for the purpose of mooring vessels of a particular size, draft, and type.

5. Assignment of Mooring Locations:

(a) In assigning mooring locations, first priority shall be given to those persons applying for the renewal of permits granted to them in the preceding year; second priority shall be given to requests by mooring permit holders for transfer to a different mooring location in the order such requests may be received; and third priority shall be given to persons on any mooring waiting list that may be maintained by the Harbor Management Commission and Harbor Master.

(b) In the interest of ensuring safe, efficient, and equitable use of the SHMA, no one individual shall be assigned more than one mooring location. Only one mooring location shall be assigned to any one vessel.

(c) In assigning mooring locations and issuing mooring permits, the Harbor Master shall, to the extent practical and to the extent consistent with all other applicable sections of these Regulations, assign priority for mooring locations to littoral property owners who apply for permits to utilize mooring locations offshore of their properties. A mooring location assigned to a littoral property owner offshore of his or her property is intended to be used by that property owner for mooring a

vessel owned by that property owner; the assigned mooring space shall not to be rented to another person or used to moor another person's vessel.

6. Assignment of Mooring Locations for Commercial Fishermen:

(a) In assigning mooring locations and issuing mooring permits, the Harbor Master and/or designated entity, shall, to the extent possible, give special consideration to providing mooring locations for vessels used for licensed commercial fishing purposes.

(b) To apply for a permit or to renew a permit for a mooring location for a commercial fishing vessel, the applicant must meet the following requirements: (1) possess a current and valid State of Connecticut commercial fishing license; and (2) possess a vessel licensed for commercial fishing purposes and equipped principally for commercial fishing purposes.

(c) Assignment and use of a mooring location for a commercial fishing vessel must be consistent with all other applicable mooring provisions established in the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan* and these Regulations and with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

7. Navigation Fairways:

In allocating and assigning mooring locations, the Harbor Master and/or designated entity shall maintain, as necessary, appropriate navigation fairways for recreational and commercial vessels navigating to, from, and through assigned mooring locations and areas. Fairways shall be designated by the Harbor Management Commission and shall be of an appropriate width, consistent with the size, draft, and type of moored vessels.

8. Application for Mooring Space and Permit:

(a) Any person, association, corporation, or other group may apply for a mooring permit by completing in full the application provided by the Harbor Master and/or designated entity for that purpose and submitting the completed application and all necessary fees and supporting documentation to the Harbor Master and/or designated entity. In the case of a corporation, association, or other group, however organized, disclosure of the principals and evidence of corporate organization must be submitted.

(b) All applicants for mooring permits shall agree to maintain liability insurance on the vessel identified in any mooring permit that may be issued. All applicants shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Stamford, its officers, agencies, designees, and employees for any and all claims, damages, or losses of any kind, including legal costs arising out of the use of any mooring location that may be assigned to those applicants.

(c) A complete application for a mooring permit shall include: the proper application form completed in full; a copy of the applicant's boat registration; proof of the applicant's vessel liability insurance; a check for the required mooring permit fee; and any other pertinent materials as determined by the Commission and Harbor Master. In the case of a new application for a mooring

permit as distinguished from an application to renew a valid mooring permit, a complete application shall also include documentation, provided by a mooring inspection service acceptable to the Harbor Management Commission and Harbor Master, that the mooring tackle<sup>4</sup> complies with minimum standards established by the Commission.

(d) The Harbor Management Commission may require a reasonable and non-refundable initial application fee, established by the City of Stamford, from all applicants placed on any mooring waiting list that may be established by the Commission and Harbor Master. This fee shall be credited against the first year annual mooring permit fee specified in Section 10 of these Regulations, and shall be collected and deposited in the same manner as the annual mooring permit fee.

9. Renewal of Mooring Permit:

(a) All mooring permits shall be valid only for the year in which they are issued and may be renewed in accordance with these Regulations.

(b) All mooring permits shall expire on December 31st. Applications for renewal of mooring permits must be completed and returned to the Harbor Master and/or designated entity by March 31st of the year following expiration of the permit.

(c) Failure to return a complete application for renewal of a mooring permit by the date specified in these Regulations may result in denial of the application and reassignment of the mooring location previously assigned.

10. Annual Mooring Permit Fee:

(a) Any person, association, corporation, or other group receiving a permit for a mooring location in the SHMA shall pay an annual mooring permit fee (not to exceed the maximum amount authorized by State law) established by the City of Stamford as authorized by Sec. 22a-113s of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sec. 6-65 of the Stamford Code. Non-profit organizations under Section 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code shall be charged an Initial Permit Fee of \$75.00 and a reduced annual fee of \$5.00 for each permitted vessel for up to six mooring locations. All such vessels must be registered with the State of Connecticut under Chap. 68, Sec. 15-144b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(b) All mooring fees shall be collected by the Office of Cashiering and Permitting and/or designated entity and shall be deposited into the City of Stamford harbor management fund, as authorized by Section 22a-113s of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sec. 6-65 of the Stamford Code, and used exclusively for purposes directly associated with management and improvement of the SHMA.

---

<sup>4</sup> For the purpose of these Regulations, "mooring tackle" shall mean the hardware, including, but not limited to, the chain, line, and anchor, used to secure a vessel at a mooring.

11. Transferral of Mooring Permits, Vessels, and Locations:

- (a) Mooring permits shall be non-transferable except that the Harbor Management Commission and Harbor Master may approve the transfer of a mooring permit between a deceased mooring permit holder and a surviving immediate family member if not doing so would create an unreasonable hardship to the surviving family member in the judgment of the Commission and Harbor Master. Whenever the holder of a mooring permit transfers the title or interest in or otherwise parts with possession of the vessel identified in the mooring permit to another person by any arrangement whatsoever, the mooring permit shall expire. The new possessor, transferee or owner shall have no vested right to use the mooring location covered by the mooring permit. Whenever the holder of a mooring permit enters into a partnership agreement for the use of that permit, continuation of the permit is subject to review and approval by the Harbor Master.
- (b) The holder of a mooring permit may, upon written application to and approval by the Harbor Master, retain the mooring location assigned under the mooring permit for a replacement vessel provided that vessel is owned by the holder of the permit and is moved onto the mooring location within one year. If the replacement vessel is significantly smaller, larger, or of different draft or type than the previously moored vessel, the Harbor Master shall have the right to relocate the replacement vessel to another, more suitable mooring location if such a location is available.
- (c) As long as a corporation that possesses a valid mooring permit remains in existence, the mooring permit remains valid, regardless of whether or not any minority portion of the corporation's interest is conveyed through sale or transfer of stock. However, should the controlling interest in the corporation change through such a sale or transfer of stock, the corporation will immediately notify the Harbor Master and its mooring permit shall terminate.

12. Mooring Location and Placement:

- (a) No mooring tackle shall be placed in any areas in which mooring is prohibited by the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan*, and all permits granted by the Harbor Master shall be consistent with all applicable provisions of the Plan.
- (b) Mooring tackle shall under no circumstances be located within navigation channels or fairways or otherwise interfere with the safe and unimpeded use of navigation channels and fairways.
- (c) Mooring permit holders may be directed at any time by the Harbor Master to move their vessels to a new or different mooring location in the SHMA for the purposes of maintaining public safety and the most efficient use of available mooring space.

13. Abandonment of Mooring Location or Tackle:

Any assigned and permitted mooring location not used during the calendar year expiring on December 31 shall be considered abandoned and subject to reassignment. Any mooring tackle not authorized by the Harbor Master is subject to removal at any time.

14. Secure Mooring and Anchoring of Vessels:

(a) The owner of any vessel moored or anchored within the SHMA shall be responsible for causing such vessel to be tied, secured, or anchored with proper care and equipment and in such manner as may be required to prevent the moored or anchored vessel from breaking loose and causing damage to any other vessel, persons, or property. The Harbor Master may order any vessel that may have broken loose from its mooring tackle or anchor, or any vessel that, in the judgment of the Harbor Master, is at risk of breaking loose, to be properly reattached or otherwise secured to avoid damage to any other vessel, persons, or property.

(b) All mooring tackle placed in the SHMA shall comply with minimum standards established by the Harbor Management Commission and shall be subject to regular inspection to ensure compliance.

(c) Each person mooring a vessel in the SHMA shall be responsible for any damage to his or her own vessel or to any other vessel or property that may be caused by failure to secure that vessel to its mooring with proper care and equipment in such a manner to prevent that vessel from breaking loose and causing damage to any other vessel, persons, or property.

15. Identification of Approved Mooring Locations and Permitted Vessels:

The Harbor Management Commission may, from time to time, establish and amend reasonable standards for the marking of mooring buoys or provide marking tags to be attached to all approved moorings in the SHMA. Notice of such standards will be provided to all approved mooring permit holders.

16. Mooring Inspection:

(a) No mooring tackle shall be placed in the SHMA without inspection and approval of the tackle by the Harbor Master or a mooring inspection service acceptable to the Harbor Management Commission and Harbor Master to determine soundness of that tackle's condition and its compliance with minimum standards established by the Commission. The Harbor Master or his authorized designee must direct the placement of all mooring tackle, with the exception of mooring tackle placed within the boundaries of a mooring area designated in State and Federal mooring permits, which may be placed at the direction of the State and Federal permittee for that area, in accordance with the terms and conditions of those permits.

(b) All mooring tackle utilized in the SHMA shall be inspected for soundness of condition at least once every two calendar years by a mooring inspection service acceptable to the Commission and Harbor Master. An official inspection form provided by the Harbor Master shall be filed with

the Harbor Master at least once every two years by the mooring owner or, in the case of moorings placed within the boundaries of a mooring area designated in State and Federal mooring permits, by the State and Federal permittee for that area. If, as a result of such inspection, it shall be determined that the mooring tackle has become unsafe or otherwise inadequate, that tackle shall be replaced accordingly. Failure of the mooring owner to make such replacement shall be grounds for revocation of the mooring permit by the Harbor Master.

17. Revocation of Mooring Permit:

The Harbor Master shall have the authority to revoke a mooring permit if the permit holder fails to maintain the moored vessel in a seaworthy condition or fails to comply with any permit conditions or provisions of these Regulations, including but not limited to:

- (i) failure to maintain a properly registered, documented, or insured vessel;
- (ii) failure to secure a vessel to its mooring with proper care and equipment;
- (iii) failure to use the assigned mooring location.

18. Transient Mooring:

(a) Public use. An appropriate number of mooring locations with mooring tackle in place may be provided by the Harbor Management Commission for the short-term use (not to exceed three consecutive days) by transient vessels. Such mooring locations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

(b) Private use. A mooring owned by water dependent business and/or a recreational facility may be established outside of a designated mooring area, provided the mooring location meets all other requirements of the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan*, as well as State and Federal requirements. In the interest of ensuring safe, efficient and equitable use of the SHMA, the Harbor Management Commission may place a limit on the number of mooring permits that may be issued to a water dependent business or private recreational facility outside a designated mooring area.<sup>5</sup>

19. Vessels Making Fast:

(a) No person shall make fast or secure an unattended vessel at any time to any individual-private mooring already occupied by another vessel, or to a vessel already attached to that mooring, without

---

<sup>5</sup> For the purpose of these Regulations, a designated mooring area shall mean: a) a geographic area within the SHMA with boundaries specifically designated in State and Federal mooring permits and within which vessels may be moored in accordance with the terms and conditions of those permits and the provisions of the City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan; and/or b) a geographic area within the SHMA with boundaries specifically designated in the City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan and within which vessels may be moored in accordance with all applicable State and Federal requirements and the provisions of the City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan.

the permission of the mooring owner. No person, with or without the permission of the mooring owner, shall make fast or secure an unattended vessel overnight to any individual-private mooring already occupied by another vessel, or to a vessel already attached to that mooring.

(b) No person shall make fast or secure an unattended vessel at any time to any commercial mooring already occupied by another vessel, or to a vessel already attached to that mooring, unless permitted to do so by the state and/or federal permits issued by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and/or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the use of that mooring, in which case the securing of any unattended vessel shall be in compliance with any conditions set forth in the permits.

20. Review of Decisions:

(a) Any party aggrieved by any decision pertaining to the application of these Regulations may request the Harbor Management Commission review that decision.

(b) It is recognized that State law requires the State-appointed Stamford Harbor Master to act in a manner consistent with the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan* and that City ordinances and regulations can not alter the Harbor Master's duties and powers established in the Connecticut General Statutes regarding mooring assignments. As a result, the Harbor Management Commission may not over-rule mooring assignments of the Harbor Master that are consistent with the Plan and these regulations.

21. Violations:

Any penalties imposed for violations of these Regulations shall be as provided in the Connecticut General Statutes and Stamford Code.

22. Removal of Unpermitted Vessels:

Pursuant to Sec. 15-8 and Sec. 15-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Harbor Master may remove any vessel moored in the SHMA in violation of these Regulations.

23. Enforcement:

The duly appointed Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master and all uniformed police officers of the Stamford Police Department certified for marine duty shall have authority to enforce the provisions of these Regulations.

Stamford Harbor Commission 7/21/09

Amended 10/20/09

Amended 2/22/10